vehicles that can pass a given point on a roadway during a given time under prevailing roadway and traffic conditions." Capacity is affected by the physical features of the roadway, nature of traffic, and weather.

Physical ways to improve vehicular capacity would include street widening, intersection improvements, improving the vertical and horizontal alignment, eliminating roadside parking and eliminating property access points.

Operational ways to improve street capacity include:

(1) **Control of access** - A roadway with complete access control can carry more than twice the traffic handled by a non-controlled access street.

(2) **Parking removal** - Increases capacity by providing additional street width for traffic flow and reducing friction to flow caused by parking operations.

(3) **One-way operation** - The capacity of a street can be increased up to 50%, depending upon turning movements and overall street width, by initiating one-way traffic operations. One-way streets can also improve traffic flow by decreasing potential traffic conflicts and simplifying traffic signal coordination.

(4) **Reversible lanes** - Reversible traffic lanes may be used to increase street capacity in situations where heavy directional flows occur during peak periods.

(5) **Signal phasing and coordination** - Uncoordinated signals and poor signal phasing restrict traffic flow by creating excessive stop-and-go operation.

Altering travel demand is a third way to improve the efficiency of existing streets. Travel demand can be reduced or altered in the following ways:

(1) Encourage people to form carpools and vanpools for work and other trips. This reduces the number of vehicles on the roadway while increasing the people carrying capability of the street system.

(2) Encourage the use of mass transit, bicycles, and pedestrian travel.

(3) Encourage industries and business to stagger work hours or establish variable work hours for employees. This will reduce travel demand in peak periods and spread peak travel over a longer time.

Idealized Thoroughfare
Plan System

A coordinated system of major thoroughfares forms the basic framework of the urban street system. A major thoroughfare system that is most adaptable to desired lines of travel within an urban area and which permits movement between various areas of the city with